

- 6 -

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,850,704 to Dave ("Dave"). In addition, Claims 2-3 and 8-10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dave in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0099972 by Walsh et al. ("Walsh").

The Examiner has objected to Claims 4-7 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would allow these claims if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The Application thanks the Examiner accordingly.

In view of the Examiner's comments with respect to Claims 4-7, Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of Claims 2-4, as suggested by the Examiner. Claims 2-4 have been cancelled accordingly. In addition, Claims 5 and 9 have been amended to make them depend from amended Claims 1 and 5, respectively, rather than from cancelled Claims 4 and 2, respectively. Furthermore, Claim 10 has been cancelled as amendment would have made it equivalent to Claims 8 or 9. Having amended Claim 1 to include the limitations of Claims 2-4, the Applicant believes that Claim 1 is patentable. In addition, the Applicant believes that Claims 5-9, being dependent on amended Claim 1, and adding patentable features thereto, are also patentable.

In addition, new Claims 11-20 have been added with a view to better defining the invention. New Claims 11-14 are directed towards a system for controlling switching fabrics in a communications switch while new Claims 15-20 are directed towards a fabric activity switch circuit for a communications switch. The Applicant believes that these new claims are fully supported by the specification (e.g., FIGS. 3, 12B, and paragraphs 0064-0100).

Please note that Claims 2-4 and 10 have been cancelled without prejudice in order to expedite prosecution of this application. The Applicant reserves the right to pursue these cancelled claims in a continuing application or otherwise.

No new matter has been entered by these amendments.

- 7 -

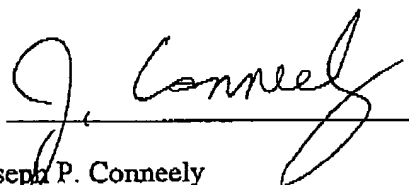
The Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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By



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